



Who We Are

What We Do

How to Help

## Your May Newsletter

*"I am free, I have choices and I am hopeful."*

### The Impact of Your Support....

We have planned an impactful and fun 40 Year Anniversary event. Funds from the event will help expand MSP's RISE Program. RISE is a transitional housing program that helps families fleeing from domestic violence in move from crisis and homelessness to safety and stability.

In recent surveys of RISE clients, 100% responded that they know more ways to plan for their safety, have hope for the future, and believe they will achieve the goals they set for themselves. They also said the following:

*"I feel safe!! My Life has changed for the Better.. Rise has help me put my life back together.."*

*"Knowing that I have stability for my son and I for a year gives me time to heal and that's something I won't get anywhere else."*

*" I know who I am as a woman.. I know my worth.. One day at a time.. I WILL RISE...."*

*"I am free. I have choices and I am hopeful ."*

**MSP's 40th Anniversary event next week, Tuesday, May 14th at 6:30 pm** at Optoro Corporate Offices at 1001 G Street NW, will raise funds to expand RISE. **For more information and to donate or purchase tickets, link [here](#).** If you cannot attend the event please be encouraged to donate regardless. Every bit helps towards creating safe environments for these deserving women.

## Helping to Create a Happy Home

In mid-April My Sister's Place partnered with KindWorks to help Gabrielle, a DV survivor and soon-to-be mother move into her new home. Volunteers from both KindWorks and MSP worked together to set up furniture, unpack, and decorate. One of the volunteers, Carol Ross, made this event part of her 60th birthday party, and brought along her friends and family to help.

Prisilla Lemos, MSP's Bilingual Community Advocate, shared this thought about her experience helping out; "Furnishing a survivors home with the help of KindWorks was one of the most incredible, humbling experiences. Several strangers coming together to make something incredible happen shows that being kind really does work."

Abby Singh, MSP's Social Worker and Children's Program Manager commented on the good work being done by KindWorks; "They have a great group of people that do such amazing work and I feel truly humbled to have been able to be a part of Sunday's event. They did a great job with empowering the client and making sure the client was a part of the process and seeing the hard work with ensuring all of the necessary things she needs for her first place was met! I would love to participate in another KindWorks event."



## Thank You to Our Volunteers and to UMD Sigmas!

### MSP Volunteer Appreciation

On April 11th there was a Volunteer Appreciation event to recognize all of the hardworking volunteers at MSP. Amina McWhirter and Chicktime Washington were honored with service awards for their amazing work. Overall it was a great evening. We owe so much to our volunteers, we can't thank them enough!



### University of Maryland Speaking Engagement

The University of Maryland, College Park Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc raised over \$5000 for MSP! Our ED Mercedes Lemp keynoted, and one of our survivors also spoke publicly about her experience. The survivor shared, "Domestic violence can happen to anybody, any nationality, any age group, even when you're not expecting it. MSP helped me keep going so I could move forward. At MSP, there's always someone to help. At MSP, I felt like the ball was finally rolling. It felt good...like I was able to gain control back...like sunshine. It was like a light was turned on.". We are honored to be part of her story.



## Russian Journalists Highlight Empowered Women



Seven women journalists from different towns in Russia were on a reporting tour and stopped by the MSP office to interview our ED, Mercedes Lemp. They were part of a Media Co-ops program funded by the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Press Center. They came to learn about strategies to empower women and about resources for women in the US to combat harmful practices targeted at women, including domestic violence. These women will go on to produce articles and stories under the theme of

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